

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning AB 1058 without my signature.

This bill would require all retailers of beef products to label beef produced outside the United States with the country where the beef was born and raised. California and the United States have the most sound food safety system in the world. Our system is a model of how local, state, and federal government work cooperatively with private food wholesalers and retailers protect consumers and provide a safe wholesome food supply.

Countries exporting beef to the United States must comply with all United States Department of Agriculture food safety standards, including those pertaining to “high risk” and non-ambulatory cattle. The requirements of this bill demand a network of tracking from the rancher, to the processor, to the importer, to the wholesaler, to the retailers that would be unworkable, costly and impossible to enforce while providing no improvement in public health protection or additional benefits to the consumer.

For these reasons, I cannot support this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger